

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 1, 7 and 9-11 as follows:

1. (Amended) An apparatus for cutting and stirring curd, comprising a curd vat with a shaft drivable for rotation, which shaft carries a number of cutting frames extending radially from the shaft and arranged on the shaft in staggered relation, each cutting frame having two frame girders, which extend radially from the drivable shaft and between which a lattice work is situated formed from longitudinal knives and transverse knives, the transverse knives being mounted on the frame girders [by welding] wherein the transverse knives have openings which are in line, in which the longitudinal knives are received, while means are provided for substantially preventing displacement of the longitudinal knives in the longitudinal direction and wherein each longitudinal knife has a smaller cross section than the size of each opening, the longitudinal knives being loosely disposed in the openings with a relatively large play at least a number of said opening are of essentially circular or oval shape.

7. (Amended) A cutting frame comprising: a pair of parallel girders, the girders being spaced apart and having a plurality of transverse knives extending transversely between the girders and secured to the girders, the transverse knives having a cutting edge extending transversely of the girders and the transverse knives having a plurality of openings, the openings in one of the transverse knives being aligned with openings in adjacent transverse knives, longitudinal knives each having a longitudinal cutting edge, the longitudinal knives extending through the openings in the transverse knives, each opening being larger than the cross section of each

longitudinal knife, the longitudinal knives having means for preventing the longitudinal knives from longitudinal movement relative to the transverse knives.

9. (Amended New Claim) The cutting frame according to claim 8, wherein the cross section of each opening in the longitudinal knives is greater than the cross-section of the pin to provide space in the openings around the pin.

10. (Amended New Claim) A cutting frame comprising: a pair of parallel girders, the girders being spaced apart and having a plurality of transverse knives extending transversely between the girders and secured to the girders, the transverse knives having a cutting edge extending transversely of the girders and the transverse knives having a plurality of openings, the openings in one of the transverse knives being aligned with openings in adjacent transverse knives, longitudinal knives extending through the openings in the transverse knives, the longitudinal knives being loosely disposed in the openings with a relatively large play, and means for securing the longitudinal knives from longitudinal displacement relative to the transverse knives.

11. The cutting frame according to claim 10, wherein the longitudinal knives have a leading side having a longitudinal cutting edge and a trailing edge, and each opening has a size greater than the cross-section of each longitudinal knife, the openings having recesses aligned with the longitudinal knives and having the leading and trailing edges received in the recesses.